Specification amendments:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 22, line 6 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The oligonucleotides used in the experiments were synthesized by Perkin Elmer Life Sciences (Finland). The G-rich strand corresponding to the repetitive units of human telomeric DNA possess the sequence G-GTT-TAA-AAT-AAT-TGA-GGG-TTA-GGG-TTA-GGG-TTA-GGG (SEQ ID NO:1). The complementary strand has the sequence GGT-TTA-AAA-AAT-TTG-CCC-TAA-CCC-TAA-CCC-TAA-CCC –T (SEQ ID NO:2). The biotin or the digoxigenin are added to the 5' end of the oligonucleotides.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 23, line 3 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The test used is the same as that described above. Only the oligonucleotides are different, the telomeric strand being replaced by an oligonucleotide having the following sequence: G-GTT-TAA-AAT-AAT-TGA-GGC-TTA-CCG-TTA-CCG-TTA-CGG (SEQ ID NO: 3) biotinylated at the 5' end. The complementary strand has the sequence: 5'-GGT-TTA-AAA-AAT-TTG-CGG-TAA-CGG-TAA-CGG-TAA-GCC-T (SEQ ID NO: 4) labeled with digoxigenin at the 5' end. If the test product has affinity for the biotinylated DNA sequence, the pairing of the complementary strand will be prevented and the signal obtained will be minimal. In the absence of product or if the latter has no affinity for this DNA, the pairing will occur and the signal will be maximum.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 24, line 8 with the following rewritten paragraph:

All the oligonucleotides, modified or otherwise, were synthesized by Eurogentec SA, Seraing, Belgium. The oligonucleotide FAM + DABCYL has the catalog reference OL-0371-0802. It has the sequence: GGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGG (SEQ ID NO:5) corresponding to 3.5 repeats of the human telomeric unit (strand rich in G). The fluorescein is attached to the 5' end, the DABCYL to the 3' end, by the chemical arms described by Eurogentec. An oligonucleotide FAM + TAMRA may also be used. The concentration of the samples is checked

by spectrophotometry, by recording the absorbance spectrum between 220 and 700 nm and using the molar extinction coefficient provided by the supplier.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 26, line 5 with the following rewritten paragraph:

5' GAAAGAGAGGAGG (SEQ ID NO: 6) and 5' CCTCCTCTCTTTCCCTTCTTTCTCTCCTCC (SEQ ID NO: 7) (TC triplex, sample #1);
5' CCTCCTCTCTTTC (SEQ ID NO: 8) and 5' GAAAGAGAGGAGGCCTTGGAGGAGAGAAAG (SEQ ID NO: 9) (GA triplex, sample #2);
5' CCTCCTCTCTTTC (SEQ ID NO: 8) and 5' GAAAGAGAGGAGGCCTTGGTGGTGTGTTTG (SEQ ID NO: 10) (GT triplex, sample #3).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 26, line 11 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The "duplex" GA (sample #5) results from the self-pairing of the oligonucleotide (5' GAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGA) (SEQ ID NO: 11). The parallel duplex (sample #6) results from the combination of 5' AAAAAAAAAATAATTTTAAATATT (SEQ ID NO: 12) with 5' TTTTTTTTTTATTAAAATTTATAA (SEQ ID NO: 13). 24 CTG (sample #7) mimics 8 repeats of trinucleotide: 5' CTGCTGCTGCTGCTGCTGCTGCTG (SEQ ID NO: 14). ds26 (sample #11) is a self-complementary duplex of 26 bases 5' CAATCGGATCGAATTCGATCCGATTG (SEQ ID NO: 15). 22CT (sample #13) is an oligonucleotide which mimics the C-rich strand of human telomeres: 5' CCCTAACCCTAACCCTAACCCT (SEQ ID NO: 16), while 22AG (sample #14) is an oligonucleotide which mimics the G-rich strand of human telomeres: 5' AGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGG (SEQ ID NO: 17). 24G20 ($T_2G_{20}T_2$, sample #15) can form an intermolecular quadruplex 5' $(TTGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGTT)_4$ (SEQ ID NO: 18).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 28, line 11 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The inhibition of the telomerase activity is determined by a modified TRAP protocol which makes it possible to measure the telomerase extension using an oligonucleotide TSG4 ($^{5'}$GGGATTGGGATTGGGATTGGGTT$^{3'}$) (SEQ ID NO: 19) which can form an intramolecular G-quadruplex structure, in the presence of a cellular extract enriched with telomerase activity

and compounds which are added at various concentrations (30, 10, 1, 0.1 and 0.01 μM). The extension reaction is followed by a PCR amplification of the extension products with the aid of the oligonucleotide CXext ($^{5'}$GTGCCCTTACCCTTACCCTTACCCTAA$^{3'}$) (SEQ ID NO: 20). The selectivity of the inhibition is measured by the amplification of a control oligonucleotide TSNT ($^{5'}$ATTCCGTCGAGCAGAGTTAAAAGGCCGAGAAGCGAT$^{3'}$) (SEQ ID NO: 21) by the oligonucleotide TS ($^{5'}$AATCGTTCGAGCAGAGTT$^{3'}$) (SEQ ID NO: 22) and the oligonucleotide NT ($^{5'}$ATCGCTTCTCGGCCTTTT$^{3'}$) (SEQ ID NO: 23).